ROMAN-SIXMILE TIMBER SALE

July 17, 2006 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Missoula Unit (SWLO) Approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Frenchtown, Montana.
- Missoula County Section 16, T15N-R21W, Sections 12 & 14, T15N-R22W

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sale volume is 17,222 tons (2,426 MBF) with an estimated minimum bid value of \$294,496.00.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$2.29/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 84% Common School Trust, 16% MSU Income Trust.
- 7.1 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale contains 10 harvest units_totaling 487 acres.
- The proposed silvicultural treatments are a mixture of individual tree selection and commercial thinning. The treatments are designed to remove trees heavily infested with mistletoe and/or Douglas-fir bark beetle or Mountain Pine beetle. Commercial thinning the stands will also increase tree vigor while reducing the threat of further insect and disease infestations.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 40% Helicopter
- 60%Tractor

Road Construction:

 Access to the sale is across existing roads. Approximately 0.4 mile of road construction and 2.6 miles of road reconstruction are required. All new construction and reconstruction would be built to meet current BMP's.

Public Involvement:

Public involvement was solicited through notices published in the Missoulian and through
meetings with the local landowners. Notices were also posted in the local post offices and
along roads leading to the sale area. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from
other agencies identified the issues. The main issues were water quality, soil resources,
noxious weeds, air quality, forest condition and forest health, visual quality, economic
benefits and project revenue, urban interface fire hazard, log truck use of public roads,
sensitive species and big game.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

- Water Quality The action is expected to improve existing roads and associated drainage structures. Existing roads would be brought into compliance with Best Management Practices and Streamside Management Zone laws to reduce potential sediment.
- **Soil Resources** The 3–5 tons of woody debris required to be left on-site would enhance long-term soil productivity. Harvest mitigation measures such as prior approval of skid trail locations and season of use limitations would limit potential soil impacts.
- Air Quality Any slash burning conducted as part of the Roman–Sixmile Timber Sale would be conducted in coordination with the Montana/Idaho Airshed group in order to ensure that acceptable smoke dispersion conditions exist prior to ignition and throughout

the duration of any burning operations. Much of the slash would be required to be chipped and hauled from the State land.

- **Urban Interface Fire Hazard** This action would result in the commercial harvest of 487 acres and the pre-commercial thinning of approximately 180 acres. The majority of the slash generated in the harvest units on the steeper slopes would be chipped and removed from the site, and the slash generated during pre-commercial thinning operation would be hand piled and burned. Slash within 200' of a private property boundary would be piled and burned. These measures would greatly reduce the threat of a stand replacing fire within state ownership.
- Sensitive Species Mitigation Measures –

Fisher -Harvest activities would occur at least 100 feet away from Sixmile Creek to maintain retention of fisher habitat.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Roman-Sixmile Timber Sale.





